



FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION

Where Quality Is A Lifestyle

YOU MAY BE LOCATED IN OR VERY NEAR A FLOODPLAIN! The first thing you should do is check to see if your home is in a special flood hazard area on the attached Fayette County flood map or at www.fayettecountyga.gov to see if you are in a flood hazard area. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps and flood protection references are available at the Fayette County Library and at the Fayette County Stormwater Department, 770-305-5410. Also available at the Fayette County Stormwater office are elevation certificates.

WHAT YOU CAN DO – One of the most important steps you can take is to protect your home and belongings by purchasing **FLOOD INSURANCE**. Homeowner insurance policies do not cover damages from flooding. Since Fayette County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System, everyone can purchase a separate flood insurance policy backed by the Federal government at a reduced rate, even if their property has flooded before. You should be aware that flood insurance required by lending institutions usually covers only the building's structure and not contents. More information on flood insurance is available at <http://www.FloodSmart.gov>. If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent or call (1-800-CALL-FLOOD, 1-800-225-5356).

You can permanently retrofit structures to help protect them from flooding. Buildings can be anchored to prevent floatation or walls can be strengthened to withstand the pressure of flood waters or the impact from floating objects. In addition to outside damages, heavy rains can cause sewage to back up into basements of homes, even in areas outside of the floodplain. A floor drain plug, standpipe, or sewer backup valve can prevent sewer backup flooding a home and can be purchased at a hardware store for under \$25.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOUR ARE CAUGHT IN A FLOOD? Put safety first. Turn off gas and electricity to your home. Move valuable paperwork and objects to higher elevations (second floor or on top of shelves). Bring outdoor items such as lawn furniture and toys inside your home or garage so, they don't clog storm drains or creeks. Stay clear of all power lines and electrical wires. If you are going to leave your home, be sure to bring all necessary medication with you. Be cautious of flood waters and limit walking or driving through flood waters. Six inches of flowing flood water has the potential to knock over a person and only two feet of water is enough to float and wash a vehicle away.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? - It is important to **not** fill in areas of the floodplain. Doing so reduces its ability to hold flood waters. It is also important (and against the law) not to dispose of any material that is not 100 percent stormwater down a storm drain or directly into a creek or stream within Fayette County. If your property is along a ditch or creek, please do your part and inspect your property and keep the banks clear of fallen woody debris. If you ever see someone dumping anything into a creek or storm drain report this offense to Fayette County at 770-305-5410.